

## **Abstract**

**Petroleum or coal tar pitch-based cellular or porous products having a density of preferably between about 0.1 g/cm<sup>3</sup> and about 0.8 g/cm<sup>3</sup> are produced by the controlled heating of mesophase carbon materials derived from coal tar or**

**5 petroleum pitch having a softening point in excess of about 300° C and preferably between about 300 and about 400° C in a "mold" and under a non-oxidizing atmosphere. The porous product thereby produced, preferably as a net shape or near net shape, can be machined, adhered and otherwise fabricated to produce a wide variety of low cost, low density products.**

**10**